

Message Text

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67

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 AF-06 L-03

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R 282235Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0821

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TELAVIV
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSIONG US NATO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB ICFTU MX
SUBJECT: ICFTU CONGRESS CLOSES

1. ELEVENTH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION
FREE TRADE UNIONS OFFICIALLY ENDED OCT 25, 1975, WITH THE
RE-ELECTION OF OTTO KERSTEN AS SECRETARY GENERAL AND P.P.
NARAYANAN AS PRESIDENT FOR NEXT THREE YEARS. HANS VETTER (GERMANY),
FIDEL VELAZQUEZ (MEXICO) AND JOE MORRIS (CANADA) WERE ELECTED
AS VICE PRESIDENTS. COMPLETE LIST WILL BE AIRMAILED WHEN
MADE AVAILABLE.

2. PRINCIPAL AMONG RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE ELEVENTH
WORLD ICFTU CONGRESS WERE THOSE DEALING WITH THE ILO AND THE
POLITICAL SITUATIONS IN CHILE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. THE
RESOLUTION ON PORTUGAL WAS SUBJECT OF HEATED DEBATE WITHIN THE
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GERMAN DGB
AND SEVERAL TRADE SECRETARIATS SUCCESSFULLY ARGUING THAT THE
NEBULOUS LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION BE STRENGTHENED BY INCLUDING
DIRECT REFERENCE TO COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN PORTUGAL. LATIN
AMERICAN DELEGATES PROTESTED THAT THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED ABOUT
THE RESOLUTION ON CHILE. THE FINAL ILO RESOLUTION REPORTEDLY
REFLECTS THE UNANIMOUS CONCERN OF THE MORE THAN 200 DELEGATES
FROM COUNTRIES ATTENDING THE CONGRESS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY
OF U.S. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. THE DRAFT
RESOLUTION HOWEVER MAKES NO MENTION OF POSSIBLE UNITED STATES
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WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO, WHICH WOULD OBVIOUSLY CURTAIL GREATLY
INCREASED WORKER EDUCATION PROGRAM DEMANDED BY ICFTU RESOLUTION.

3. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, DELEGATES SEEMED CONTENT WITH
RESOLUTIONS AND ELECTION OFFICERS WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS ON
THE STRENGTH OR WEAKNESS OF WORDING SOME RESOLUTIONS. ENGLISH-
SPEAKING DELEGATES FROM AFRICA, ASIA AND THE AMERICAS HAD
FRUSTRATING EXPERIENCE ATTEMPTING UNDERSTAND OTHER LANGUAGE

INTERPRETATION WITH FAULTY EQUIPMENT PROBLEM THAT NEVER WAS
RESOLVED. ITINERARY WAS COMPLETELY FULL WITH MEXICANS ACTING
AS GRACIOUS HOST DURING ALL FREE TIME. MOST OF THE INITIATIVE
ON RESOLUTIONS CAME FROM EUROPEANS. MEXICANS DID NOT SEEK
FOREFRONT AS THEY HAVE AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HELD
HERE AND WHILE REFERENCE WAS OFTEN MADE TO THE CHARTER OF
ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES IT DID NOT PREDOMINATE.
THE VENEZUELAN, ARGENTINES AND MEXICANS WERE VISUALLY
ACTIVE MORE SO THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS FROM BRAZIL,
PERU, AND CENTRAL AMERICA. THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF THE
NORDICS AND THE JAPANESE WHO SAT QUIETLY WHILE THE ENGLISH,
GERMANS AND SOME AFRICANS APPEARED VERY BUSY, AS DID THE GUEST
OBSERVER FROM THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. IN
CONCLUSION, THE ICFTU STAFF NEVER LOST CONTROL OF THE
CONGRESS, PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY ENJOYED THE OBVIOUS SUPPORT
OF THE GERMANS AND THE ENGLISH. THE AMERICAN PRESENCE WAS
SMALL, WITH ONLY THE UNITED MINE WORKERS AND A FEW
INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIAT LEADERS, WHICH
DIMINISHED THE ATMOSPHERE FOR DEBATE MAKING THE CONGRESS
LESS THAN LIVELY.
BRANDIN

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